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AP-NORC poll: Virus fears linger for vaccinated older adults

By MATT SEDENSKY

NEW YORK (AP) — Bronwyn Russell wears a mask anytime she leaves her Illinois home, though she wouldn't dream of going out to eat or to hear a band play, much less setting foot on a plane. In Virginia, Oliver Midgette rarely dons a mask, never lets COVID-19 rouse any worry and happily finds himself in restaurants and among crowds.

She is vaccinated. He is not.

In a sign of the starkly different way Americans view the coronavirus pandemic, vaccinated older adults are far more worried about the virus than the unvaccinated and far likelier to take precautions despite the protection afforded by their shots, according to a new poll out Wednesday from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

While growing numbers of older unvaccinated people are planning travel, embracing group gatherings and returning to gyms and houses of worship, the vaccinated are hunkering down.

"I'm worried. I don't want to get sick," says Russell, a 58-year-old from Des Plaines, Illinois, who is searching for part-time work while collecting disability benefits. "The people who are going about their lives are just in their own little bubbles of selfishness and don't believe in facts."

Continued on next page



In this Monday, Sept. 27, 2021, photo Bronwyn Russell poses for a photo at her home in Des Plaines, Ill.

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Continued from Front

As the virus' delta variant has fueled new waves of infection, the poll of people age 50 or older found 36% are very or extremely worried that they or a family member will be infected, roughly doubled since June. The increase is fueled by the vaccinated, who are especially likely to be highly worried. Just 25% of vaccinated Americans, but 61% of unvaccinated Americans, say they are not worried.

That worry is taking a toll: Those concerned about COVID-19 are less likely to rate their quality of life, mental and emotional health, and social activities



In this Monday, Sept. 27, 2021, photo Bronwyn Russell poses for a photo at her home in Des Plaines, Ill.

Associated Press

and relationships as excellent or very good.

The dichotomy is at once peculiar and pedestrian:

Though the unvaccinated stand most at risk of infection, their refusal of the shots shows many are convinced

the threat is overblown. Midgette, a 73-year-old retired electronics salesman in Norfolk, Virginia, sees the government as the culprit in fueling fear, but he's not buying into it. He says "life is normal" again and the only thing he's missing out on is going on a cruise with his wife because of vaccination requirements. It won't convince him.

"I grew up in the old days. I ate dirt. I drank water from a hose. I played outside. I don't live in a cage right now," he says.

About two-thirds of people age 50 or older say they rarely or never feel isolated, but about half of those most worried about COVID-19 say they've felt that way at least sometimes in the last month.

Kathy Paiva, a 70-year-old retired bartender from Palm Coast, Florida, says she's feeling the weight of staying home so much.

"My life is more limited than it ever was," Paiva says. "I'm scared to go anywhere right now. I'd like to go out to eat, too, but I'm not going to put anyone's life in danger, especially my own."

Her son died of a heart attack in January. In July, she and her closest confidant, her 67-year-old sister, both fell ill with COVID-19. Paiva, who is vaccinated, survived. Her sister, who wasn't, did not.

About 1 in 4 older adults, including roughly a third of those who are most worried about COVID-19, say their social lives and relationships worsened in the past year.

The poll found vaccinated older adults are more likely than the unvaccinated to say they often avoid large groups, wear a mask outside their home and avoid nonessential travel. Compared with June, vaccinated people were less likely to say they would travel or

visit bars and restaurants in the next few weeks.

Dr. Irwin Redlener, a public health expert and founding director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University, said unvaccinated people's fear of the virus is lower because of their "disregard for science."

"Vaccinated people have generally bought into the scientific realities of risk. They're reading the reports of new variants or mutations, they're reading stories about breakthroughs," he said.

All of that is fueling anxiety for the vaccinated, Redlener said, compounded by a loss of confidence in experts and officials and their shifting guidance, most recently on the issue of booster shots.

Lee Sharp, a 54-year-old information technology consultant from Houston, who was so seriously ill with COVID-19 last year that he made sure his wife knew how to access all his accounts, initially thought he would get vaccinated as soon as shots were available. But as the months went by, the forcefulness with which vaccines have been pushed has made him not want to get one.

"As time has passed, I have less and less and less trust. 'Masks don't do anything!' 'Masks do something!' 'You need two masks!' 'No, you need four masks!' 'You need disposable masks!' 'No, cloth masks are OK!'" he said in exasperation. "What the heck?"

Linda Wells, a 61-year-old retired high school administrator in San Francisco, says that defiance has been discouraging. She got her shots and a booster, but because of an arthritis medication she takes, has been told by her doctors she's in the "nebulous area of not knowing whether I'm protected." □

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U.S., EU agree to further trade and technology talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and the European Union agreed Wednesday to create 10 panels to explore and recommend solutions to a variety of trade disputes and challenges.

During two days of trade and technology talks in Pittsburgh, they set up 10 working groups to go over issues ranging from climate and clean tech and technology standards to global trade issues, including tariffs that have strained U.S.-EU relations and predatory commercial practices by China.

Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and Trade Representative Katherine Tai led the U.S. delegation, accompanied by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, for the inaugural meeting of the U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council. The meeting took place in an atmosphere clouded by recent EU anger over being excluded from a new U.S.-British-Australian security initiative for the Indo-Pacific that aims to counter China's increasing assertiveness in the region.

In a joint statement re-



From left, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai gather for a strategic meeting with European Commission Executive Vice Presidents Valdis Dombrovskis and Margrethe Vestager during the inaugural meeting of the U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) at the Hazelwood Green Mill 19 building, Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

leased after Wednesday's discussions, the two sides agreed on the need to maintain investment screening and export controls, affirmed their intention to develop artificial intelligence systems that are "innovative and trustwor-

thy" and "respect universal human rights and shared democratic values," and committed to partnering on a rebalance of semiconductor supply chains. They also agreed that the working group on export controls would meet again

Oct. 27. The two sides had been hoping to make progress on several disputes, including U.S. tariffs on EU steel and aluminum imports, and a unified stance against predatory Chinese commercial policies. But the 17-

page joint statement made no specific mention of either issue and contained no references to China by name.

Administration officials had said the talks in Pittsburgh would mark the start of a new trans-Atlantic process that would focus on semiconductors, supply chains, vaccines and climate change, along with studies on artificial intelligence and high-tech telecommunications, notably advanced 6G networks.

The White House, in part, viewed the gathering as an opportunity to renew its push for improved coordination against what the administration sees as coercive and unfair trade practices by Beijing.

The administration had been expected to underscore that the United States and Europe need to continue to work on building resilience against China and other countries engaging in unfair economic practices, according to a person familiar with U.S. preparations. The person was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity. □

Cherokee Nation reaches \$75M settlement with drug companies

By SEAN MURPHY
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Cherokee Nation and three opioid distributors reached a \$75 million settlement to resolve opioid-related claims against the companies, the tribe and the companies announced Tuesday.

The Tahlequah, Oklahoma-based tribe announced the settlement, the largest in Cherokee Nation history, with McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation. The settlement will be paid out over six and a half years.

"Today's settlement will make an important contribution to addressing the opioid crisis in the Cherokee Nation Reservation; a crisis that has disproportionately and negatively affected

many of our citizens," Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said in a statement. "This settlement will enable us to increase our investments in mental health treatment facilities and other programs to help our people recover."

The tribe sued the three companies, along with several pharmacy companies, in 2017, alleging they contributed to "an epidemic of prescription opioid abuse" within the tribe and have not done enough to prevent tribal members from acquiring illegally prescribed opioid painkillers.

The three companies said in a joint statement that the settlement is a step toward "a broader settlement with all federally recognized Native American tribes across the country."

"While the companies

strongly dispute the allegations against them, they believe this resolution will allow the companies to focus their attention and resources on the safe and secure delivery of medications and therapies while delivering meaningful relief to affected communities, and will also support efforts to achieve a broad resolution with the remaining Native American tribes," the statement said.

The Cherokee Nation's claims against Walmart, Walgreens and CVS are pending.

The settlement announced Tuesday is separate from similar claims brought by other tribes, as well as state and local governments, around the country, including a multi-district litigation proceeding in federal court in Ohio.



In this Aug. 22, 2019, file photo, Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr., speaks during a news conference in Tahlequah, Okla.

Associated Press

Former Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter in 2019 secured a \$465 million judgment against consumer products giant Johnson & Johnson in the first such state trial against an opioid manufacturer. That case is currently on appeal.

Hunter also secured multimillion-dollar settlements with other drugmakers over the state's opioid crisis. From 2007 to 2017, more than 4,600 people in Oklahoma died from opioid overdoses, state statistics show. □

NY attorney general blasts Cuomo's criticism of her report

By MICHELLE L. PRICE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Attorney General Letitia James on Wednesday dismissed former Gov. Andrew Cuomo's repeated complaints that the sexual harassment investigation that led to his resignation was tainted by politics, saying the Democrat has "never taken responsibility for his own conduct."

James, speaking to a civic group in New York City, defended the 165-page report her office released in August that found Cuomo sexually harassed at least 11 women.

"Mr. Cuomo has a lot to say on these matters, but he's never taken responsibility for his own conduct. He's never held himself accountable for how his behavior affected our state government," said James, also a Democrat.

Cuomo emphatically denied intentionally mistreating women. He said he was stepping aside to avoid subjecting the state to months of turmoil. Since announcing his resignation, he has promoted opinion



New York State Attorney General Letitia James speaks at a news conference, Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021, in New York.

Associated Press

columns on social media that question the independence of the investigation and suggest his ouster was an orchestrated, political bludgeoning.

"This was politics. Every step of the way," he said in a tweet last week.

The five-month, noncrimi-

nal investigation by James' office concluded that 11 women within and outside the state government were telling the truth when they said Cuomo had touched them inappropriately, commented on their appearance or made suggestive comments about their

sex lives. The report also detailed efforts by his staff to discredit some of his accusers.

"Let's not lose sight of what's important," James said. "It's not me. It's not Mr. Cuomo, but the survivors of his harassment. The people of our state whose trust he broke.

And the people who believed in him, including myself. No one is above the law. And our state can do better moving forward."

James contrasted her investigation with one Cuomo himself ran while he was serving as attorney general and investigated then-Gov. Eliot Spitzer, who resigned in 2008 in a prostitution scandal.

She noted that her investigation started after Cuomo's office referred the allegations to her, was led by outside investigators and took five months. Cuomo's investigation of Spitzer, James said, started without an outside referral, took 20 days and was handled within the office.

She said her office plans to publicly release transcripts of the 179 people interviewed as part of the probe.

James' office has released only excerpts of the interviews. The Associated Press filed open records requests in August for full transcripts and recordings of interviews with Cuomo and other witnesses but has yet to receive the materials. □

Gas blowout near Los Angeles leads to up to \$1.8B settlement



In this May 15, 2016 file photo people chant slogans during a protest outside the Aliso Canyon storage facility, in the Porter Ranch section of Los Angeles.

Associated Press

By BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Thousands of families sickened and forced from their Los Angeles homes after the nation's largest-known natural gas leak have reached a settlement of up to \$1.8 billion with a utility, attorneys said Monday.

The settlement with South-

ern California Gas Co. and its parent company, Sempra Energy, will compensate 35,000 plaintiffs from the 2015 blowout that took nearly four months to control.

The Aliso Canyon blowout led to the largest-known release of methane in U.S. history and was blamed for sickening thousands of

residents who moved out of homes near the San Fernando Valley to escape a sulfurous stench and maladies including headaches, nausea and nose bleeds. The plaintiffs alleged personal injury for their illnesses and property damage to their homes. SoCalGas spent more than \$1 billion on the blowout — with most going to temporarily relocate 8,000 families. The utility has faced more than 385 lawsuits on behalf of 48,000 people.

"Our goal has always been obtaining justice for the men, women and children who were failed by SoCalGas throughout every turn of this catastrophe," attorney Brian Panish said in a statement.

Plaintiffs alleged they suffered personal injury and property damage after a natural gas storage well failed and uncontrollably

released nearly 100,000 tons of methane and other substances into the atmosphere over 118 days.

SoCalGas said it would record an after-tax charge of approximately \$1.1 billion this month and expects total settlement payments of up to \$1.85 billion. The agreement is subject to about 97% of plaintiffs accepting it and could be reduced if fewer agree.

"These agreements are an important milestone that will help the community and our company work toward putting this difficult chapter behind us," said Scott Drury, CEO of SoCalGas.

Matt Pakucko, founder of Save Porter Ranch, issued a statement repeating his call for the permanent shutdown of the facility, where natural gas is stored beneath a mountain in vacant, old oil wells.

"You can't put a price tag on human suffering," he said. "SoCalGas' devastating blowout will never be behind us until the Aliso Canyon storage facility is shut down and the danger it poses to the community is permanently eliminated. We are nowhere near a resolution."

State regulators found the gas company failed to investigate previous well failures at the storage site and didn't adequately assess its aging wells for disaster potential before the Oct. 23, 2015, blowout.

SoCalGas previously reached a \$120 million court settlement with the state attorney general and agreed to a \$4 million settlement with Los Angeles County prosecutors after being convicted in Los Angeles Superior Court of failing to quickly report the leak to state authorities. □

Lava from La Palma eruption finally reaches the Atlantic

Associated Press

LOS LLANOS DE ARIDANE, Canary Islands (AP) — A bright red river of lava from the volcano on Spain's La Palma island finally tumbled over a cliff and into the Atlantic Ocean, setting off huge plumes of steam and possibly toxic gases that forced local residents outside the evacuation zone to remain indoors on Wednesday.

The immediate area had been evacuated for several days as authorities waited for the lava that began erupting Sept. 19 to traverse the 6½ kilometers (four miles) to the island's edge. On the way down from the Cumbre Vieja volcanic ridge, the lava flows have engulfed at least 656 buildings, mostly homes and farm buildings, in its unstoppable march to the sea.

The meeting of molten rock and sea water finally came at 11 p.m. on Tuesday. By daybreak, a widening promontory of newborn land could be seen forming under plumes of steam rising high into the area. Even though initial air quality reading showed no danger in the area, experts had warned that the arrival of the lava at the ocean



Lava from a volcano reaches the sea on the Canary island of La Palma, Spain on Wednesday Sept. 29, 2021.

would likely produce small explosions and release toxic gases that could damage lungs. Authorities established a security perimeter of 3½ kilometers (about two miles) and asked residents in the wider area to remain indoors with windows shut to avoid breathing in any gases.

No deaths or serious injuries have been reported from the island's first eruption in 50 years, thanks to the prompt evacuations of over 6,000 people after the

ground cracked open following weeks of tremors. The flattening of the terrain as it approached the coast had slowed down the flow of the lava, causing it to widen out and do more damage to villages and farms. The local economy is largely based on agriculture, above all the cultivation of the Canary plantain. Just before it poured down a cliff into the sea at a local point known as Los Guirres, the lava rolled over the coastal highway, cutting

off the last road in the area that connects the island to several villages.

"We hope that the channel to the sea that has opened stops the lava flow, which widened to reach 600 meters (2,000 feet) at one point, from continuing to grow, because that has caused tremendous damage," Ángel Víctor Torres, president of the Canary Islands regional government, told Cope radio.

Torres said his government is working to house those

Associated Press

who have lost their dwellings. Authorities have plans to purchase over 100 currently unoccupied homes. Torres cited one village, Todoque, home to 1,400 people, which was wiped out.

La Palma, home to about 85,000 people, is part of the volcanic Canary Islands, an archipelago off northwest Africa. The island is roughly 35 kilometers (22 miles) long and 20 kilometers (12 miles) wide at its broadest point. Cleaning crews swept up ash in the island's capital, Santa Cruz, while more small earthquakes that have rumbled under the volcano for weeks were registered by geologists.

Favorable weather conditions allowed the first flight in five days to land at airport on La Palma, an important tourist destination along with its neighboring Canary islands, despite a huge ash cloud that Spain's National Geographic Institute said reached up to seven kilometers (nearly 4½ miles) high.

Laura Garcés, the director of Spain's air navigation authority ENAIRE, said she doesn't foresee any major problems for other airports on the archipelago because of the ash. □

All workers safe after rescue out of mine in Canada

SUDBURY, Ontario (AP) —

The last four miners trapped deep below the surface in the Totten Mine climbed to safety early Wednesday, the company that owns the mine near Sudbury, Ontario, said.

Vale said the 39 workers trapped by an accident on Sunday climbed a series of ladders with the aid of rescue crews.

"This is tremendous news flowing from very difficult circumstances," Vale CEO Eduardo Bartolomeo said in a statement.

The last miner reached the surface shortly before 5 a.m. and was taken away in an ambulance as a precautionary measure, said company spokesman Jeff

Lewis.

He "walked onto the ambulance and was giving fist bumps to the mine rescue team," Lewis said.

"It was a emotional ending to a very stressful exercise," said Gord Gilpin, head of mining for Vale's Ontario operations.

"There were a lot of smiles, a few laughs and fist bumping and congratulations going on."

The workers became trapped on Sunday when a scoop bucket being sent underground detached and blocked the mine shaft while some were as deep as 1,200 meters (nearly 4,000 feet) below the surface, the company said.

"Climbing ladders is not

part of their daily routine. ... That is the reason why we had the medical team here. They will be continued to be monitored for the next three or four days and then we'll know the extent of the struggles that they had to get up to the surface," said Nick Larochelle, president of United Steelworkers Local 6500.

He said they rested at different points of the climb. The province's Ministry of Labor, Training and Skills Development said an inspection team will investigate the incident. Bartolomeo, who was on site, said Vale also will investigate "so that the company can learn from it and take steps to ensure it never happens



The Totten Mine near Sudbury, Ont., is shown on Monday, Sept. 27, 2021. A mining company says 39 workers who've been trapped underground near Sudbury, Ont., since yesterday are now slowly on their way out.

Associated Press

Rescue agency helped the workers through their trek up the ladder system, the company said.

The Totten Mine opened in 2014 and produces copper, nickel and precious metals.

It employs about 200 people. □

North Korea says hypersonic missile made 1st test flight

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

North Korea said Wednesday that it successfully tested a new hypersonic missile it implied was being developed as nuclear capable, as it continues to expand its military capabilities and pressure Washington and Seoul over long-stalled negotiations over its nuclear weapons.

The missile test early Tuesday was North Korea's third round of launches this month and took place shortly before North Korea's U.N. envoy accused the United States of hostility and demanded the Biden administration permanently end joint military exercises with South Korea and the deployment of strategic assets in the region.

A photo published in North Korea's state media showed a missile mounted with a finned, cone-shaped payload soaring into the air amid bright orange flames. The official Korean Central News Agency said the missile during its first flight test met key technical requirements — including launch stability and the maneuverability and flight characteristics of the "detached hypersonic gliding warhead." South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff assessed the missile to be at an early stage of development and said North Korea would need "considerable time" to be able to deploy it operationally.



This photo provided by the North Korean government shows what North Korea claims to be a new hypersonic missile launched from Toyang-ri, Ryongrim County, Jagang Province, North Korea, Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021.

Associated Press

The North's announcement came a day after the South Korean and Japanese militaries said they detected North Korea firing a missile into its eastern sea. The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said the launch highlighted "the destabilizing impact of (North Korea's) illicit weapons program." U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric called the reports "very disturbing" and said: "We remain convinced that the only way forward for the Korean Peninsula is for diplomatic engagement

by the parties." In a separate report, KCNA said the North's rubber-stamp parliament opened a session on Tuesday and discussed domestic issues such as economic policies and youth education and that the meetings would continue.

Some experts speculate the North might use the session to address the deadlock on nuclear diplomacy, but the state media report did not mention any comments made about Washington and Seoul.

At a ruling party meeting in January, leader Kim Jong Un named hypersonic glide vehicles, which are launched from a rocket before gliding into a target, as among a wish-list of sophisticated military assets. KCNA described the new missile as an important addition to the country's "strategic" weaponry, implying that the system is being developed to deliver nuclear weapons. The report also said the test confirmed the stability of the missile's fuel capsule,

indicating a technology to add liquid propellant beforehand and keep it launch-ready for years. And a North Korean official said the North planned to expand the system to all of its liquid-fuel missiles.

Liquid-fuel missiles are more vulnerable than solid-fuel missiles because they need to be fueled separately and transported to launch sites using trucks that can be seen by enemy satellites or other military assets.

Kim Dong-yub, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said North Korea is trying to improve the mobility of these weapons.

North Korea last week made offers to improve relations with South Korea under certain conditions, apparently returning to its pattern of mixing weapons demonstrations with peace overtures to wrest outside concessions.

Negotiations over its nuclear program have been in a stalemate since February 2019. North Korea has demanded the lifting of U.S.-led sanctions while insisting it has the right to nuclear weapons. U.S. officials have made it clear that the sanctions will stay in place until the North takes concrete steps toward de-nuclearization.

Kim Jong Un in recent political speeches has vowed to bolster his nuclear program as a deterrent to the U.S. □

5 intel officers killed in shootout with militants in Sudan



In this photo taken from video, Abdalla Adam Hamdok, Prime Minister of the Sudan, remotely addresses the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in a pre-recorded message, Saturday Sept. 25, 2021 at UN headquarters.

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Five intelligence officers were killed in a shootout Tuesday with suspected Islamic State group militants in Sudan's capital Khartoum, authorities said.

The General Intelligence Agency said in a statement the suspected militants opened fire on forces who raided their hideout in the Gabra neighborhood in southern Khartoum. It said five were killed and an officer was also wounded in the raid.

The GIA said forces arrested 11 suspected militants and were chasing four oth-

ers who managed to flee during the shootout. The statement said the suspects were foreigners but did not reveal their nationalities or further details.

Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok mourned the deaths of the five officers. Tuesday's violence came a week after authorities said they foiled a coup attempt that has since increased tensions between the generals and civilians in the transitional government.

The developments underscore the fragility of Sudan's path to democracy, more than two years after

the military's overthrow of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir amid a public uprising against his three-decade rule.

Militant attacks were rare in Sudan, a country that hosted Osama bin Laden in the early years of his jihadi movement that led to the creation of al-Qaida. The East African nation was on the U.S. list of countries backing terrorism until December.

In March last year, Hamdok said he survived a "terror attack" after an explosion and gunfire targeted his motorcade in Khartoum. □

Mexico tries to ease asylum backlog in face of frustrations

TAPACHULA, Mexico (AP)

— Trying to ease a backlog in Mexico's asylum system and the resulting frustrations that drove thousands of applicants to head toward the U.S., Mexican officials opened a mammoth reception center outside a soccer stadium near the Guatemala border Tuesday.

The Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance, with the help of the National Guard and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, targeted those who had already made initial applications for protected status in Mexico but had waited months for an initial interview.

The site outside Tapachula's Olympic Stadium could handle as many as 2,000 people daily, said Alma Delia Cruz Márquez, the commission's local delegate. Previously, huge crowds had packed the streets around the commission's downtown offices in Tapachula jostling for position. The commission receives 75% of all the applications for protective status through its offices in the



Mensah Montant, right, visits with Haitian migrants Rosaline Pierre and Etlove Doriscar, in Ciudad Acuña, Friday, Sept. 24, 2021.

Associated Press

southern state of Chiapas, Cruz said. Through August, Mexico had received nearly 80,000 asylum applications.

"The protection that we give is only for those people whose life, freedom or safety is at risk in their country of origin," Cruz said. "It does not constitute any kind of travel permit or authoriza-

tion." In early September, groups of hundreds of migrants set out walking from Tapachula, in many cases fed up with waiting for the overburdened asylum system to process their cases. Each time, Mexican authorities broke up the groups. More recently, some 15,000 mostly Haitian migrants ap-

peared at the Mexico-U.S. border. Some of them also had open asylum cases in Mexico, but had grown tired of waiting. U.S. authorities spent a week clearing that camp in Del Rio, Texas, deporting some directly to Haiti and releasing others into the United States with the expectation they would appear before im-

migration officials at a later date.

Some of those migrants who were detained by Mexican authorities in Ciudad Acuña were shipped back south to Tapachula.

Some activists in Tapachula looked at the stadium effort skeptically, questioning whether the government is just trying to appear helpful while maintaining a policy of containing migrants in southern Mexico.

Luis García Villagran, of the Center for Human Dignity, said Mexican officials are trying to turn Tapachula into a migrant detention center it already hosts Latin America's largest.

"These (reception centers) are stopgap measures. This is make-up that tries to show that the Mexican state with its institutions is resolving or doing something with the immigration phenomenon," he said.

Fraindy Sainteme, a Haitian migrant, said he had been waiting three months for his asylum application to advance. On Tuesday, at the reception center they gave him an appointment to return Wednesday. □

Tunisia: President names female prime minister amid turmoil



In this photo provided by the Tunisian presidency, newly named Prime Minister Najla Bouden Ramadhane poses for the media Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 in Tunis.

Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Tunisia's president on Wednesday named the country's first female prime minister, appointing a 63-year-old professor to lead a transitional government after the head of state sacked the previous prime minister and suspended parliament.

Najla Bouden Ramadhane, a professor at a prestigious engineering school, appears to be the first woman appointed as head of government in an Arab League nation. Sudan has a female foreign minister, and Lebanon's defense minister is a woman. □

Tunisian President Kais Saied named Bouden to the post in a surprise decision, and instructed her to create a new Cabinet as soon as possible, according to a statement from the president's office.

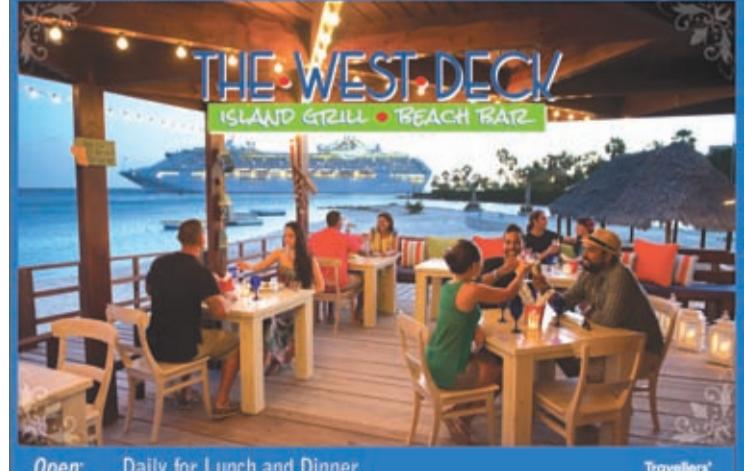
Tunisia has been without a head of government and in limbo since Saied froze the country's parliament and seized executive powers on July 25.

The move notably sidelined the Islamist party that dominated parliament, Ennahdha, and critics denounced the president's moves as a coup that threatens Tunisia's young democracy.

Saied said he acted to save the country amid unrest over financial troubles and the government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic. □



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SAN NICOLAS — Heintje Ras an Aruban fireman and father of two teenagers has a passion for the Aruban Culture. His love for everything that has to do with our heritage is visible in his day to day life at his own museum, Museo di Antiguedad "Nos Bieunan", Museum of Antiqueness "our elderly". Ras wants to build a mega museum where he can display all his antique artifacts to the public. To do this he needs funding. His way to get funds is by doing a challenge; Spending 100 days in the Phosphate Mine, which if completed will be a world record on the Guinness Book of Records.

As a young boy Ras had always been passionate about Aruba's Culture and heritage. He loved listening to stories told by his ancestors. He even learned how to fix sewing machines. So whenever someone needed to fix a machine they would call

Aruban born and raised Heintje Ras will spent 100 days in the Phosphate Mine

him. While fixing a broken sewing machine at a home some years back he saw that the owners of the house had a very old sewing machine thrown in the backyard and he asked if he can have it. He took it home, fixed it and from there he got the idea to start collecting old artifacts that people wanted to throw away or had no use for it. For Ras all these artifacts have a special meaning, a value, they all tell the story of our ancestors and our heritage. That is why he is trying to "rescue" all artifacts that tells a story of our past.

The collection started in his garage at home. More and more artifacts were gathered that it even got so crowded that he started putting them in his living room and continued to spread all over the house. That is where the idea came up to open up his house for the public. The need to educate specially kids but also people of all ages about our history and our ancestors is what lead him to open his own museum at his house. He feels joy when seeing kids interested in knowing the history of the artifact, how it works, especially since kids nowadays only know the digital era and everything is so easy to get. He also loves to share his knowledge of these artifacts and their original names in our Papiamento language.

At his museum you will find artifacts dated from the early 1600's. From antique furniture, pots, pans, musical instruments, paintings, tools, lamps, sewing machines



and so much more. Over the past three years his collection has grown to over 6000 artifacts.

Ras has a dream he wants to accomplish for his beautiful island. His ultimate dream is open up a Mega Museum for its citizens as well as for its visitors and incorporating a classic car collection as well. For this reason he is going to do what nobody in the world has done before. From October 2nd, 2021 till January 9th, 2022 he will be spending exactly 100 days in Aruba's Phosphate mines deep underground to help raise funds to accomplish this museum for Aruba.

100 Days in the Phosphate Mine

To make this challenge more exclusive Ras has contacted the Guinness Book of Records, since he will be doing a historical record. A representative of the Guinness Book of World Records, will be present during three occasions for this event. October 2nd, 2021 upon start of the challenge, when reached 50 days in the cave and at the end of the 100 days. To be able to do this challenge he had to go through some strict guidelines. No bed with mattress can be used. No lights are allowed inside the cave. No elec-

tronic devices are allowed. There must be a doctor on standby within five minutes reach. His team members will provide him every day with buckets of ice so he can drink and shower with. He will be eating only fruits and liquids. The fire department will also be on standby. Ras has been undergoing these last months through heavy mental and physical preparations. Ras is ready and anxious to start with this challenge and see his dream come through of building a mega museum for his beloved island.

On Saturday October 2nd, 2021 at 2pm, Ras will be meeting everyone at the Red Anchor at the entrance of Colony and afterward will head to the entrance of the Phosphate mine. By 4pm a local artist will sing the national anthem of Aruba, followed by a blessing from a Priest before entering the cave for 100 days.

Donations for this cause can be done through bank account of RBC Bank, number 7700000100257292, or at GoFundme <https://gofund.me/1fb9874c>.

On behalf of Aruba Today we would like to wish Heintje Ras best of luck and may God Bless and Protect you throughout the challenge! □



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served with skillet potatoes and toast.

These restaurants are also open for lunch and dinner and will delight you with unique tastes. Choices run from Argentinian dishes to, Asian/Caribbean, International and Mexican at amongst others Iguana

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located behind The Lazy Turtle. Snap Instagramable pictures at the Angel Wings located between Pandora and Quiksilver and another one in front of TGI Fridays. Catch a live Show on Friday by violinist Angela Flores and Saturday by the acrobatic group Ritmo Cubano at 8pm on the Plaza Padu.

With any purchase at Paseo Herencia you will re-

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To learn more, visit the Paseo Herencia Facebook or Instagram page. □

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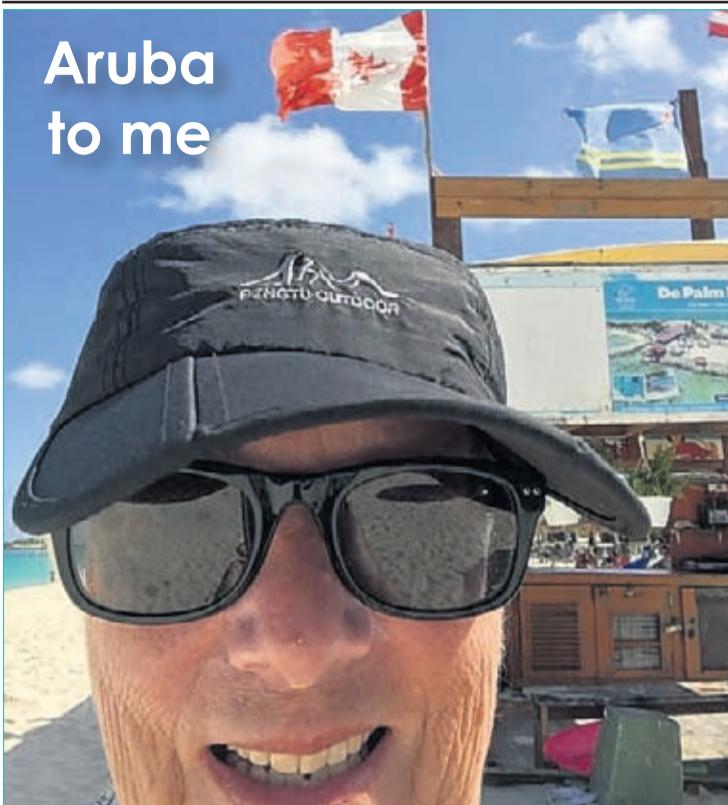
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Aruba to me



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For today we received an amazing story from **Antoinetta DeWit** from British Columbia Canada. She wrote:

Aruba to me is.... FEELING HOME!
 "There are many things about Aruba that keeps me coming back – over and above the warm climate, warm sea water and warm people. This is my 30th visit. For me it's also the clean air, clean white sandy beach and clear blue sea. Add to that the ease of relaxing, smiling and just lying back on the plush blue beach towel lain upon a firmly strapped lounge chair, under a grass palapa, with my eyes open or closed, while I reflect back, think ahead and just enjoy the moment. It all comes to me very easily but especially when I see the Canadian flag waving in the wind along side the Dutch and Aruban ones, all swaying in sync with the gentle breeze. I feel in sync with this whole place. Thank you Aruba". □

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Harbour House Aruba officially open! 80 % sold, construction in final phase: Harbour House Aruba is ready for you!

ORANJESTAD — It was the official Grand Opening of Harbour House Aruba last Thursday, June 10th. The residence consisting of 94 units is located in the former Mar Azul building, right in the heart of Oranjestad. The two brothers Irwin J. Perret-Gentil and Alberto Perret-Gentil from PERING, one of the largest, privately-owned Real Estate and construction firms in Venezuela and Aruba, officially opened their new jewel in the presence of the invitees.

Harbour House Aruba is the ultimate smart investment or personal living space. A state-of-the-art lobby, an ocean-view gym, bar service, rooftop with 360 degrees view of Oranjestad, on-site parking, 24-hours security and a top floor lounge area with Jacuzzi's. Cherry on the cake: an infinity pool with a panorama on the harbour.

Harbour House Aruba offers cosmopolitan living in a beach-chic environment. The residence is fast-selling their studios, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units for many reasons but in a nutshell we can name: great location, great value for your money and great quality. To see exactly what still is available you may check the website which shows you a map with sold and open units. Updates on construction are also on forehand. When you live abroad stopping by to check upon your purchase is not that simple, yet with



the monthly updates on their website, it is a lot easier.

Hottest condo in town

Aruba Today talked to one of the owners from New York: "This is going to be the hottest condo building on the island because this is the very first thing people see when they arrive here by cruise ship and it is the only one combining the ocean, port and city. We feel so happy to be the owner here, also, the organization is amazing. We are being accommodated in every way, the attention you get is extraordinary."

Boardwalk

Living here includes being part of Oranjestad and all its benefits. Around the Harbour House building a boardwalk is constructed



allowing you to stroll along the waterfront and enjoy a drink on a terrace or dive into the art gallery, souvenir store or even have dinner facing the atmospheric harbour of Oranjestad.

The process of purchase is easy, whether you are abroad or on the island. Make an appointment through the website to visit the sales office when you are here. In that way you can actually see the unit, materials and amenities. If you are not on the island the website can help you out and the sales office is happy to send you all needed documentation for you to orientate. When agreed upon the unit you sign an agreement and move forward with the down payment which is \$ 50.000. At receipt of that amount the sales is closed and the price will not change. You know what you get and will not be surprised by price changes. The payment agreements after the deposit will be discussed and are flexible. Harbour House Aruba assist also in financing by banks.

For more information:
<https://harbourhousearuba.com>. □

Is a new job the right financial move?

By LIZ WESTON of NerdWallet

Whether you call it "The Great Resignation," "The Great Reshuffle" or just high time for a change, millions of American workers are looking for new jobs — and some have already quit the ones they have. Better pay isn't necessarily the motivator, labor experts say. Many people are seeking greater flexibility, the ability to work remotely or other nonfinancial benefits.

Still, money is important, and a job change can be a great time to significantly improve your financial prospects. In addition to the pay a new job offers, you should consider the value of a wide range of benefits and other compensation. Once you have a clear picture of what you're being offered, you may be able to negotiate a better deal.

TOTAL YOUR CURRENT COMPENSATION

Start by calculating the compensation package of the job you currently have, or your most recent job if you're unemployed, says Seth Mullikin, a certified financial planner in Charlotte, North Carolina. In addition to salary and any bonuses, commissions, profit-sharing or stock options, you should include employer-paid health and life insurance premiums as well as company contributions to health savings accounts and retirement plans. (These contributions are often listed on your pay stubs, or you can ask the human resources department.)

Include any other perks you enjoy — cell phone reimbursement, employee discounts, gym memberships or company-provided day care, for example — along with the value of benefits you're likely to use in the next one to three years, such as infertility coverage or tuition assistance, Mullikin suggests.

Next, contemplate what you might give up by leaving now. Some benefits vest over time, such as stock options, 401(k) matches and traditional defined benefit



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

Associated Press

pensions. This compensation may not be enough to handcuff you to your job indefinitely, but you may not want to walk away prematurely from a significant payout.

"If you were leaving a company where you had stock options that were close to vesting, would you be better off waiting another year?" Mullikin says.

HOW DOES THE NEW JOB COMPARE?

Perform similar calculations for a job you're being offered: Add to the proposed pay any employer contributions for benefits and other perks you're likely to use. If these benefits aren't clearly laid out, ask for details and specific numbers. Then check to see if you deserve more. Your current salary may lag what most other employers pay if you've worked at the same

company for many years, says Lazetta Rainey Braxton, a CFP in Brooklyn, New York. She recommends using sites such as Salary.com to get a feel for what similar jobs pay so you can better assess the offer.

TAKE A DEEPER LOOK

Benefits can take vastly different forms, depending on the company.

Some employers offer a range of health insurance plans from which to choose, while others don't. If the only option is a high deductible plan, for example, that could be fine

if you're a young, healthy person — or a disaster if you have substantial medical costs and not enough savings to cover the deductible, Mullikin says. Similarly, a plan with a limited network of providers could become expensive if your doctors aren't included.

Ask about waiting periods, too. Employers can make you wait up to 90 days for health insurance coverage or a year to contribute to a 401(k). Parental and other leave policies can have waiting periods, as well.

Company policies about

time off vary enormously, and smaller companies may be exempted from laws that apply to larger ones. For example, companies with fewer than 50 employees typically don't have to comply with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act that otherwise provides covered workers with up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave for caregiving or serious health conditions.

USE YOUR LEVERAGE

Financial considerations must be weighed with all the other aspects of a prospective job. Are there opportunities for advancement? Flexible scheduling and work locations? Is the workforce diverse and the culture engaging?

Risk tolerance matters, too. You may be willing to accept a smaller salary and fewer benefits in exchange for stock options that could deliver a big payoff someday. Or you may prize job security and the opportunity to save for the future more than rolling the dice. If the job is tempting but the offer is lacking, see if you can negotiate a better deal. You may never have more leverage than you do before you formally accept an offer that's been extended, says negotiating expert Kwame Christian, director of the American Negotiation Institute in Columbus, Ohio. Christian recommends negotiating salary and the other financial aspects before you ask for more time off, a flexible schedule or other "creative options" that don't cost your employer directly.

"You always want to go for the money first," Christian says. "Because we know that money is exhaustible, but with these creative options, those are really largely inexhaustible." □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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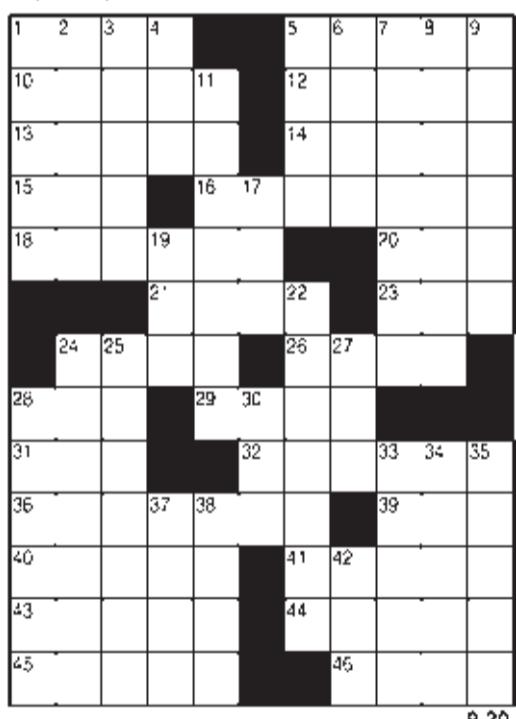
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'The Sopranos' prequel is made for the TV fans

AP Entertainment Writer

When "The Sopranos" is brought up these days, it's usually for the nebulous way it ended: That now-famous cut-to-black in a crowded diner while Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'" plays. Whether Tony Soprano lived or died is still hotly debated.

The real death in 2013 of the great James Gandolfini ended hopes of putting that debate to bed, but David Chase, the creator and showrunner of "The Sopranos," has intriguingly kept the show alive with the new prequel film "The Many Saints of Newark."

It's intriguing mainly because the film conjures the greatest character ever created for TV back to life but doesn't frame him in the middle. Tony Soprano is a cameo in his own origin film.

Instead, the guy in the center is Tony's so-called uncle, Dickie Moltisanti, played with real verve by Alessandro Nivola. Mafia boss Moltisanti is the guy young Tony looks up to. But he's riddled with the same flaws Tony will soon share: Possessiveness, quick to anger, methodical and yet impulsive, prone to affairs and eager to consume vast amounts of pork products.

In a stroke of genius, the older of two young Tony Sopranos in the film is played by Michael Gandolfini, the son of the late actor who share his father's wide, sad



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Michael Gandolfini, left, and Alessandro Nivola in "The Many Saints of Newark."

Associated Press

expressive eyes and bearishness. He is riveting.

All the old gang — now made young with new actors, of course — are here: Uncle June, Livia Soprano, Paulie Walnuts, Silvio Dante, Pussy Bonpensiero, Janice Soprano, Jackie Aprile, Carmela and even Christopher Moltisanti, Dickie Moltisanti's son.

Michael Imperioli is back as the younger Moltisanti and he seems to have a bit of a chip on his shoulder about his one-time mentor, Tony Soprano, on account of the older man choking him to death in 2007. So he narrates unseen from the grave.

That leads to one of the funniest moments in the film: When an infant Moltisanti is displayed by his mother to the family but gets too close to Tony, the baby bursts into tears. "It's like I scare him or something," Tony shrugs.

The danger here is that the new actors have a template of what their characters will look and sound like in the future. For the most part, they avoid caricature — like Vera Farmiga nailing Tony's fearsome mother and Corey Stoll brilliantly capturing the petty, irritable Junior. But John Magaro mugs a bit too much as Silvio, Stevie Van Zandt's

consigliere.

One problem here is time, something the film obviously plays with. "The Many Saints of Newark" arrives 14 years after "The Sopranos" ended and that may be too long for anyone but the most ardent fan to keep up. The brain strains trying to connect new faces with old ones.

The plot really is just a few slices of years in and around Newark, New Jersey, in the late 1960s and early '70s. The DiMeo crime family — of which the Sopranos are a crew — is trying to stay afloat during civil unrest that includes deadly 1967 riots. But the film sags in

many parts, never achieving the focused tautness of the series and often seems aimless. If you're not a fan already, it might come across as "Goodfellas" lite. A terrific Leslie Odom Jr. plays Harold McBrayer, a low-level debt collector who will soon try to run his own crew. Ray Liotta wonderfully plays not one but two characters — Dickie's dead-eyed father and also Dickie's philosophical, jailed uncle. If you're a fan of "The Sopranos," you'll know that Dickie Moltisanti doesn't appear in the HBO series. You'll learn why.

But what about Tony Soprano? How does he become the anxiety-prone mobster and dad, caught in the old ways and the new, as liable to brutally garotte an informant as break down and cry while hearing The Chi-Lite's "Oh Girl" on his car radio? We leave him on the cusp of manhood, still teetering between criminality and innocence. Yes, he helps hijack a Mr. Softee truck, but gives away all the ice cream. Yes, he takes a pair of stolen speakers, but regrets it. "I try to be good," he tells his uncle.

There's a reveal of what will become his hair-trigger temper, but also a willingness to embrace mental health help, which will one day lead to a psychiatrist couch. He's about 20 when the film ends, too soon to see what really made him. □

From 007 to Macbeth: Daniel Craig plots return to Broadway



This combination photo shows Daniel Craig at the world premiere of the film "No Time To Die" in London on Sept. 28, 2021, left, and Ruth Negga at a special screening of "Ad Astra" in Los Angeles on Sept. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

By MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Fresh off his turn as James Bond, Daniel Craig has his next project lined up and it's also got plenty of blood being spilled.

Craig will return to Broadway in 2022 as Macbeth in a revival of William Shakespeare's tragedy, with Ruth Negga making her Broadway debut playing Lady Macbeth.

"Macbeth" will play the Lyceum Theatre starting March 29, 2022, with an

opening set for April 28. Tony Award-winner Sam Gold will direct. Barbara Broccoli, who produces the James Bond films with her brother, is a producer of "Macbeth."

Craig was last on Broadway in a 2013 revival of Harold Pinter's "Betrayal" opposite his wife, Rachel Weisz, and directed by Mike Nichols. Craig also starred opposite Hugh Jackman in 2009's "A Steady Rain." Gold directed Craig in a 2016 off-Broadway production of "Othello" alongside David

Oyelowo. Negga, whose film credits include "Loving" and "World War Z," started her career in the theater, and in 2020, made her New York City theatrical debut in the titular role of "Hamlet." It will mark the second high-profile "Macbeth" after Joel Coen's Shakespeare adaptation "The Tragedy of Macbeth," starring Denzel Washington and Frances McDormand. That film will be released in theaters Dec. 25 and on Apple TV+ on Jan. 14. □

Rags to riches: Boxing great Pacquiao announces retirement

By KIKO ROSARIO

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —

Boxing legend Manny Pacquiao is officially hanging up his gloves.

The eight-division world champion and Philippine senator on Wednesday announced his retirement from the ring.

"I would like to thank the whole world, especially the Filipino people, for supporting Manny Pacquiao. Goodbye boxing," the 42-year-old said in a video posted on his Facebook page. "It is difficult for me to accept that my time as a boxer is over. Today I am announcing my retirement."

Pacquiao finished his 26-year, 72-fight career with 62 wins, eight losses and two draws. Of those 62 wins, 39 were by knockout and 23 by decision. He won 12 world titles and is the only fighter in history to win titles in eight different weight classes.

His retirement from boxing followed a disheartening defeat to Yordenis Ugas in Paradise, Nevada, on Aug. 21. The younger Cuban



In this Aug. 20, 2021, file photo, Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, poses for photographers during a weigh-in in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

boxer beat Pacquiao by unanimous decision, retaining his WBA welterweight title. It was Pacquiao's first fight in more than two years.

"Thank you for changing my life. When my family was desperate, you gave

us hope, you gave me the chance to fight my way out of poverty," Pacquiao said in the video. "Because of you, I was able to inspire people all over the world. Because of you I have been given the courage to change more lives."

Pacquiao had hinted at retirement recently. It had also been expected because he is setting his sights on a bigger political battlefield. Earlier this month, he accepted his political party's nomination and declared he will run for Philip-

pines president in elections next May.

He has accused the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte, his former ally, of making corruption worse in the Philippines. He promised to fight poverty and warned corrupt politicians they will soon end up in jail.

Pacquiao's rags-to-riches life story and legendary career brought honor to his Southeast Asian nation, where he is known by the monikers Pacman, People's Champ and National Fist. He left his impoverished home in the southern Philippines as a teenager and stowed away on a ship bound for Manila. He made his professional boxing debut as a junior flyweight in 1995 at the age of 16, fighting his way out of abject poverty to become one of the world's highest-paid athletes.

Eddie Banaag, a 79-year-old retiree, said Pacquiao was his idol as a boxer and he watched almost all of his fights. But he believes the boxing icon should have retired earlier. □

NLRB memo: College football players are employees

By JIMMY GOLEN

AP Sports Writer

College football players and many other athletes are employees of their schools, the National Labor Relations Board's top lawyer said in a memo Wednesday that would allow players at private universities to unionize and otherwise negotiate over their working conditions.

NLRB General Counsel Jennifer Abruzzo also threatened action against schools, conferences and the NCAA if they continue to use the term "student-athlete," saying that it was created to disguise the employment relationship with college athletes and discourage them from pursuing their rights.

"The freedom to engage in far-reaching and lucrative business enterprises makes players at academic institutions much more similar to professional athletes

who are employed by a team to play a sport," the memo said.

Abruzzo's memo does not immediately alter the existing dynamic between the schools and their athletes, who can receive scholarships and limited cost of attendance funding in exchange for playing sports. Instead, it is legal advice for the NLRB should a case come to it for a decision.

The NLRB has authority only over private businesses, leaving the majority of major athletic programs outside its purview.

Gabe Feldman, the director of the Tulane Sports Law Program, said that while the memo has no immediate effect it is "yet another threat" to the business model of the NCAA, its conferences and its schools, which rely on unpaid athletes to reap billions in revenues, primarily from football and basketball.

"It's particularly meaningful given the rest of the landscape in college athletics," he said. "All signs point to an increasingly at-risk and fragile system of college athletics."

Neither the NCAA nor representatives for the five largest athletic conferences responded to a request for comment from The Associated Press.

The NLRB's new stance is the latest in a string of changes threatening to upend the U.S. model of amateur sports. The NCAA, the nation's largest governing body with oversight of some 450,000 athletes, is reeling from a recent Supreme Court decision and in July cleared the way for athletes to earn money based on their celebrity. It is also planning to overhaul its constitution, which contains tenets that have been in place for a century. It also comes with athletes



Northwestern football players gather during practice at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside campus in Kenosha, Wisc., in this Monday, Aug. 17, 2015, file photo.

Associated Press

growing more outspoken about their treatment amid concerns about equity. A number of players had stinging criticism in March for how the men's and women's basketball tournaments were clearly different when it came to investment, branding and support from the NCAA. The nine-page NLRB memo revisited a case involving Northwestern football play-

ers who were thwarted from forming a union when the board in 2015 said that taking their side "would not promote stability in labor relations."

But Abruzzo's memo noted that much has changed since then, including the Supreme Court decision this year that lifted restrictions on some forms of education-related compensation for college athletes. □

Brady vs. Belichick? Numbers don't lie but it's not simple

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Without Bill Belichick, Tom Brady won his seventh Super Bowl and is on pace to throw a career-high 53 touchdown passes at age 44.

Without Brady under center, Belichick is 54-61 over his career, including 8-11 since the future Hall of Fame quarterback left New England for Tampa Bay.

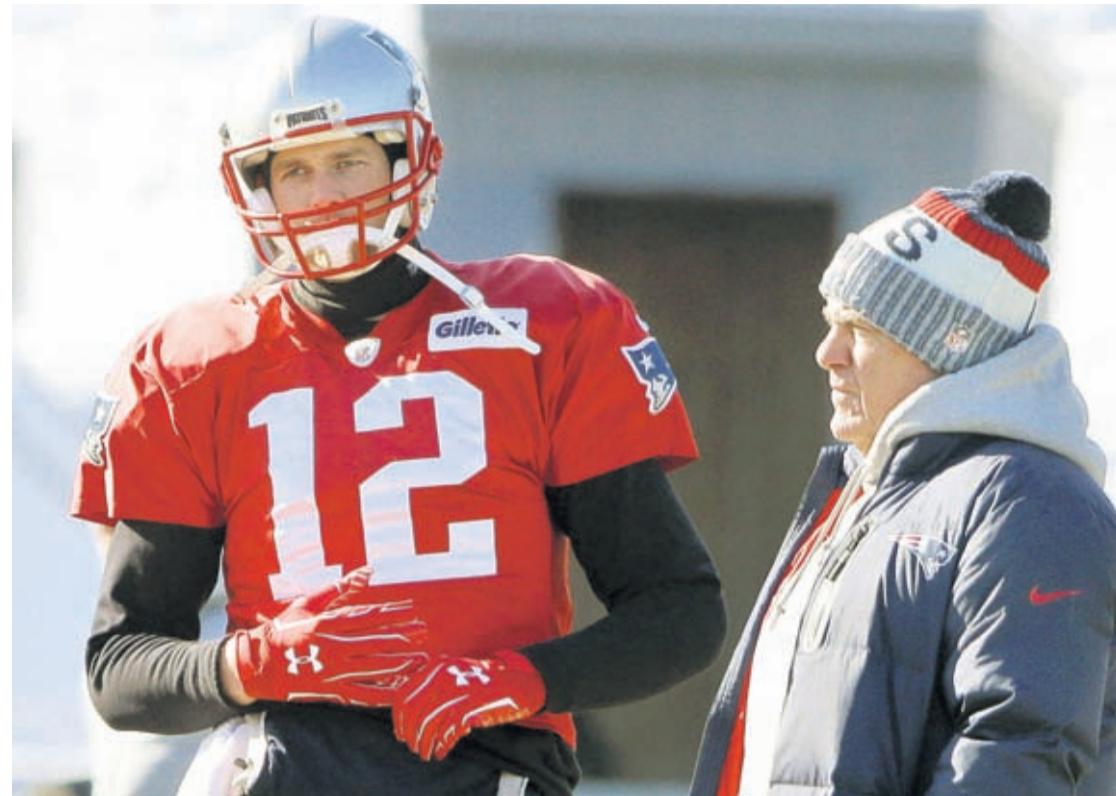
Brady vs. Belichick? The numbers don't lie, but it's not that simple.

The ultimate NFL grudge match takes center stage Sunday night when Brady returns to face the Patriots (1-2) for the first time with the Buccaneers (2-1).

For many, the Brady vs. Belichick debate ended when No. 12 led the Buccaneers to a convincing 31-9 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs and earned his fifth Super Bowl MVP award last February. Brady's success in Tampa and Belichick's struggles since the GOAT left Patriot Place proves the quarterback was more valuable than the coach. It's clear the Patriots wouldn't have won six Super Bowl titles without Brady.

Former Patriots cornerback Asante Samuel said Belichick is "just another coach" without Brady.

However, it's fair to say Brady wouldn't have earned six rings in New England without Belichick. He drafted Brady in the sixth



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, left, stands with head coach Bill Belichick, right, during an NFL football practice, Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

round with the 199th overall pick and built a dynasty around him led by a tenacious defense that helped them tremendously during their two decades together.

The Patriots won their first Super Bowl because their defense stymied Kurt Warner and the "Greatest Show on Turf" Rams. The defense did it again against Sean McVay's Rams in Brady and Belichick's final championship season.

Of course, Brady led the offense on the winning drive in the final minutes of that first one and the clinching drive late in the fourth quar-

ter of the last one. Belichick's defense was a no-show when Brady threw for 505 yards in a Super Bowl loss to Nick Foles and the Philadelphia Eagles. That defense needed Brady to bail them out a year earlier in the stunning 34-28 comeback win over Atlanta in overtime. "What Brady has been able to do in his career I'll never take anything away from him. Greatest athlete in my opinion to ever play any sport, and obviously, the greatest football player," said former Patriots tight end Jermaine Wiggins, a member of New England's

first championship team. "But for me I look at Bill, and what Bill has done for this organization, it's about drafting guys and bringing guys in here and giving guys opportunities. And he gave Brady that opportunity. Tom Brady, a lot of the stuff he knows now and I think what you're seeing down in Tampa, Brady has taken everything that Bill taught him and now implemented in Tampa - getting those to buy in down there." So, Brady vs. Belichick depends on the question. Who needed the other more? The best answer just might be they needed

each other. Belichick's strategy, attention to detail and emphasis on discipline was vital. Brady's talent, drive and work ethic made winning possible. Brady needed Belichick more in his 20s than he did in his late 30s and now in his 40s. He's thriving in Bruce Arians' offense surrounded by excellent playmakers at the skill positions.

"Well, I have 20 years of being there and, obviously he's a great mentor for me," Brady said this week on his SiriusXM podcast. "And, yes, there's definitely great lessons I've learned from him. He's a great football coach and he does a great job for his team. Any player I think they would just hope that their coaches give them everything they've got, and I'm sure every great coach wants every player to give them everything they've got. And I think that's what makes a great relationship." Who is more important to a team's success? Brady hoisted another Vince Lombardi Trophy and playfully tossed it from one boat to another in his first season after leaving New England. Belichick doesn't even have a winning record with all other QBs. "Tom's had an unbelievable career. There's not enough superlatives and adjectives to compliment him on everything he's achieved and continues to achieve," Belichick said. □

Bucs add CB Richard Sherman to injury-ravaged secondary



San Francisco 49ers cornerback Richard Sherman (25) is seen during the NFL football Super Bowl 54 game against the Kansas City Chiefs in Miami Gardens, Fla., in this Feb. 2, 2020, file photo.

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have signed Richard Sherman, a three-time All-Pro cornerback and Super Bowl champion who has been dealing with legal issues in the offseason.

Sherman got a one-year deal Wednesday and said Tom Brady helped recruit him to the defending Super Bowl champions, who have been hit hard by injuries to their secondary.

"He's the all-time great quarterback reaching out, and anytime he makes that call, it's a very difficult op-

portunity to pass up," Sherman said on his podcast. A five-time Pro Bowler, Sherman spent the last three seasons with San Francisco. Before that, he was one of the NFL's top defenders with Seattle, helping the Seahawks win the 2013 title and go to the Super Bowl the next season. He played seven seasons in Seattle (2011-17).

He was involved in several incidents during the summer, including being arrested in July at the home of his wife's parents in Redmond, Washington. Sherman, 33,

was charged with five misdemeanors, including two counts of domestic violence, plus resisting arrest, DUI and reckless endangerment.

He pleaded not guilty to those charges while saying on social media he was "deeply remorseful" for his actions. A pretrial hearing is set for Friday.

Sherman has the most interceptions in the league over the last 10 seasons (36). He also has been a star in the playoffs and was selected to the NFL Team of the Decade for the 2010s. □